

Date: August 10, 2011

To: USPS Postal Regulatory Commission

From: Doree Block

**RE: Docket A2011-34**

Dear Members of the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission,

This letter is regarding my dissension of the closure of the U.S. Post Office located in Innis, Louisiana. My personal and professional opinion is this action would be a grave error for the rural community.

I was raised in Innis, Louisiana and currently serve as Secretary of a company based in Innis. I also own two residences within the village of Innis.

The Innis Post Office was established in the 1890's, as Innis was one of the first established villages in the area of northern Pointe Coupee. Areas to the north and the south of the village, respectively known as Lettsworth and Batchelor, have historically never resembled a village. There are historical reasons as to why these areas have been more rural and agrarian.

The first village in the northern Pointe Coupee area was the outpost near Raccourci (which is the backside of Lettsworth), where the first post office was established in 1836. This post office was later moved to the nearby Torras in 1902. By this time, the Innis post office was already established. These towns diminished in population due to collapse of a railroad track in the early 1900's that was never rebuilt, as well as flooding from the Mississippi River. The great flood break of the Mississippi River levee in 1927 occurred in the area between Lettsworth & Batchelor. The southside of Batchelor has also faced risk of flooding from the Morganza Spillway, which recently made national news. It is common sense that Innis, the middle grounds of these areas, developed as a village and continues to grow.

One of the many things I never understood regarding the Innis post office is why there were never rural routes established from the post office. On the street I grew up, which is right past the "Innis" town sign as you travel north on Highway 1, is serviced by the Batchelor post office. The street on which my grandfather's business was located and served Innis from the 1950's until a few years ago, which is the middle of town, is serviced by the Lettsworth route. Why? Why have homes and businesses within the officially recognized town boundaries of Innis been allowed to be serviced by post offices of other towns?

I completed an informal survey of all the homes & businesses within the town of Innis that are receiving mail delivery via Lettsworth or Batchelor's routes via a bike ride. On my bike ride survey, I counted 64 rural route delivery addresses from other post offices within Innis. How could the USPS allow 64 addresses within Innis to be serviced by other cities? This is an injustice!!! Why? This has taken away from the revenue of the Innis post office, hence making it appear as the community of Innis does not generate income for the post office.

My next question to the USPS Regulatory Commission is exactly how much walk in traffic does Batchelor & Lettsworth have on a daily basis as compared to Innis? Innis is a village that people visit to grocery shop, attend church services, seek medical attention, make use of the library, access senior services, buy lumber. You cannot say the same about Lettsworth or Batchelor. The Lettsworth post office is surrounded by fields that are farmed. The nearest business is a nursery, which is probably at least half a mile away.

As far as Batchelor, the only reason to visit that community is to buy a daiquiri or visit the convenience store. That is unless you are a farmer and need to make use of the grain elevator or you work at the plastics facility. However, these are not businesses that readily serve the public. This post office is also surrounded by fields that are farmed. Furthermore, if you use the most common of all internet research tools, Wikipedia, Batchelor is not even listed on their site.

Here is a list of just a few of the businesses within the Innis Community that are being serviced by the Batchelor routes:

- **Ewing's Ag Grocery & Hardware, 6360 LA Highway 1**
- **Innis Community Health Center, 6450 LA Highway 1 # B**
- **Innis Fire Dept, 8874 LA Highway 418, Batchelor LA**
- **Jones & Jones Cypress LLC, 6314 LA Highway 1**
- **L A Express, (Ewings Of Innis) 4996 LA Highway 1**
- **LA Express Lounge, 6364 LA Highway 1**
- **Dr. Leon D Williams MD, 6450 LA Highway 1 # B**
- **Sheriff's Office, 6450 LA Highway**

I truly do think the USPS needs to evaluate these communities overall to make a decision that is most cost effective and best serves the area. Common sense is to save the most money possible and consolidate all three post offices, locating the post office in a central area. Why would USPS be against a plan that would contribute more savings in light of the current economic status of the postal service? The central area is Innis, which also provides the most public services for all three communities. This would be the most logical solution to the problem at hand.

I do hope you keep my thoughts into consideration when making your decision.

Respectfully,

Doree Block